



15 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

We have been made aware of a small number of students within Year 9 who have tested positive for COVID-19 using Lateral Flow Testing at home. We have asked them to go for confirmatory PCR tests (at a test site) in line with current guidance. A small number of students who were social, close contacts over the weekend, (just Saturday and Sunday) have already been identified and asked to isolate, but one who tested positive this morning was in school yesterday and so we have had to identify, contact home and isolate several more Year 9 students this morning as a precautionary measure. We believe that we have identified any close contacts that these students have had in school. This means that no other members of the school community need to take any further action or self-isolate, at this stage.

If confirmatory PCR tests come back as being negative then the home test is overruled and we will contact those students affected as they will be able to stop self-isolating. The school is working closely with the local public health team in York, who are satisfied that the school is following all the appropriate guidelines. However, as there is more than one case in the same year group, they are monitoring this situation closely.

Please remember that the school remains open and your child should continue to attend as normal if they remain well.

With cases of COVID-19 rising nationally and after May half term, seeming now to be also rising more locally, it is timely to highlight some really important reminders to help ensure that we are all doing everything we can to minimise the risk of spreading infection.

Firstly, the school will continue to provide lateral flow devices to continue with twice weekly, home testing if consent has been provided. This asymptomatic testing has recently demonstrated how effective it can be in identifying potential cases early, which means that people are isolating quickly. As a reminder, these test results must be reported via the NHS test and trace system in line with the instruction booklet provided, but please also report the result to school each time using the Google form link: <https://forms.gle/1gUDh8KbnTKeSfjc8>.

Secondly, please ensure that students self-isolate and do not come into school if they have any potential COVID-19 symptoms, including any of the following:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for PCR testing. This can be arranged by calling 119 or via: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

All other household members must stay at home until the test result is known and then follow NHS test and trace instruction on further isolation as required.

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“Working together to achieve success”

If your child does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from the nhs.uk website at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/>. If you are concerned about your child's symptoms, or they are worsening you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://111.nhs.uk/> or by phoning 111.

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness, but there are things we can all do to stop COVID-19 spreading and that will help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with becoming ill with COVID-19.

Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Yours sincerely



Dave Hewitt
Headteacher